| MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

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MCG CONTINUES

Last fall, we were not able to find a Program Chair for MCG, and we decided that we should not continue to meet regularly. However, some of our members wanted to preserve this organization, and we decided to continue our newsletter publication. President Al Morse had continued our Missouri state recognition until August, 2020, and we have continued to publish the newsletter. Al will register MCG again next month for a 2 year extension.

We are fortunate to have Julia Morse, Al's cousin once removed, as a regular correspondent for this newsletter. In effect, for us, Julia has not been removed but has been a wonderful addition to this organization. She has created our website again, mcgenealogists.org, and she is preserving our newsletters and any contributions we may have for Archive.org. She is Asociate Professor at Kansas State University in Salina, but she has certainly also become a wonderful teacher for our family researchers.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

I grew up in Rich Hill, Missouri with my folks, Albert Frank and Mildred Catherine (Janssens) Morse. They grew a large garden for several years. My brother, Carl, and I, from the time we were old enough, were in the garden. We helped Dad plant, weed, and harvest. I remember that my brother and I, for a few years, had to dig the potato crop, which took up about half of the garden. They were stored in a shed, and we used them all winter long. We helped Mom with canning beans. We helped cram the beans in the quart jars. Mom then added the boiling water and sealed the jars. They went into a canner for 3 hours. We ate on them all winter. She also was good at making sauerkraut. We also had a large sweet corn plot. For a couple of years I picked the ears, shucked them, and then sold them for 25 cents a baker's dozen, that is 13 ears. Dad insisted that I do that. Mom started working as a cook at a restaurant and then later, was a cook, and eventually the head cook, at the school house. The school house housed all of the students of Rich Hill. My folks sold the garden lot and a house was built on it. This ended our gardening. Carl and I were happy.

My grandparents, Clark Frank and Alma Dona (Miller) Morse, sold their farm about 1950, and moved to Rich Hill. Grandpa raised a large garden. After we got rid of our garden, we got fresh vegetables from our grandparents. They now lived one block from the school so Carl and I parked our bicycles at their house and walked to school. We visited with them every school day.

When Dorothy and I bought our first house in Independence, Missouri in 1965, I told her that we could put a garden in the back yard. We put in a small garden. We planted lettuce, onions, and radishes for early spring salads. We did this for years. We later put in tomatoes and peppers. That was about all we could put in the garden. We also had an asparagus patch and a strawberry patch. We added two grape vines and three apple trees. Dorothy would make grape jelly. We would go to visit Dorothy's folks, Herbert Edgar and Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb. She had a large garden and shared green beans, sweet corn, squash, and other good vegetables. Our two sons always enjoyed visiting the farm and going for walks.

When we retired in 1994, we bought one and a half acres from Dorothy's cousin, Shirley (West) and Billy Tippie. We had a double wide house put there, and we moved into it in October, 1994. We were about 5 miles west of Rich Hill. We then put in a large garden. We raised all kinds of vegetables. We started canning on a regular basis during the

summer. We started canning beans, tomatoes, and pickles. We also planted several berry bushes and grapes. We canned lots of jellies and jams. We also put in several fruit trees. We then dehydrated apples. We worked together on the canning and gardening. We also went for country walks. We picked morel mushrooms in the spring. We had a black walnut tree and cracked and picked the nutmeats. We kept busy and enjoyed it. But, because of health problems, we sold the property and moved back to our home in Independence in November, 2004.

In 2008, we then bought a house and moved to Foxwood Springs, a retirement community in Raymore, Missouri. In 2009, I started gardening in the Foxwood Springs Community Garden. I have continued doing that every year since. We continued canning.

We then started going down to the 80 acres from the farm that Dorothy
grew up on. We picked gooseberries, blackberries, and plums. We enjoyed those trips, even though it was, sometimes, very hot and hard work picking some of those berries. We then started making jellies and jams with different fruits and vegetables. We did a 3-berry jam consisting of blackberries, blueberries, and raspberries. We did a blueberry and gooseberry jam we called blue-goose jam. We did a blackberry-raspberry jelly, which is now my favorite jelly. We tried and have continued to can jalapeno jelly.

When we started canning, we, of course, used them for our purposes. But we also gave them away to family and friends. Here at Foxwood Springs, they used to hold a Fall Festival and we donated 7 to 8 dozen jars of our canned goods. We also donated some to our church for their fall yard sale. After Dorothy's death, I have continued canning. She left me some very good notes. All I need to do is to follow them. It kind of reminds me of being a student in a college chemistry class. You need to measure very carefully. As I write this I am canning lime pickles. I have a very good cucumber crop this year. I hope that I can continue gardening and canning.

THIS MONTH'S FAMILY RESEARCH TIPS AND RESOURCES

Julia Morse

Tip 1: "Frugal Genealogy Power Tips" from Lisa Lisson (of Are You My Cousin), presented in a mini video, https://youtube/3DcCtPNmEz0::

(a) Always research with a plan.
(b) Search for ancestors at free online sites.
(See her list of 50 Free Genealogy Research Records and Websites: https://lisalisson.com/free-genealogy-websites/. MCG also has a list of Favorite Free Family Research Tools, https://mcgenealogists.org/2020/03/01/favorite-free-research-tools/
(c) Watch for free access promos (For example, you can monitor the My Heritage blog, https://blog.myheritage.com/, for announcements of free access to certain resources.)
(d) Trade look-ups with others (who may have paid access).

Tip 2: Tag your family heirlooms so that others will know the significance of them after you are gone. The Family Curator (Denise May Levenick) provides worksheet forms and suggestions for recording the history of your heirloom histories:
PDF printable: _____
http://thefamilycurator.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/HeirloomHistoryForm.pdf
DOC editable: http://thefamilycurator.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/HeirloomHistoryForm1.doc
Suggestions: https://thefamilycurator.com/treasure-chest-thursday-writing-the-history-of-your-heirloom/

Tip 3: Practical advice for working through a basement of someone's "stuff" to archive what is important:
"Creating a Family Archive" by Joyce Whiting
(18 minute video)
https://youtube/90rAh7__pz4

FROM MARYLAND TO MISSOURI AND TEXAS

Marjorie Slavens

When in 1953, my mother asked her father, Edward Alonzo Welty, about the families of his parents, Henry Welty and Catharine Mary Eppright, he told her his father served in the Union Army during the Civil War and came from Lancaster County Ohio following the war, and his mother's surname was Eppright. She did not learn much more about them until she began her family history research in the late 1970s. She and her family went to Jasper County to visit her grandmother in 1925 when she was 15, and she never met her grandfather. He came to see her when she was 6 months old, but she and her parents had gone to Asbury, Missouri to see her other grandparents that weekend. He died at the Federal Soldiers Home in Leavenworth a week after that attempted visit. What we know about the Welty and Eppright families is due to her 30 years of research. Henry Welty grew up on a farm near Bremen in Fairfield County, Ohio, and Lancaster was the county seat.

Mother's great great grandfather, Jacob Eppright, was born in Maryland in 1783, but we were never able to determine which of the Maryland Epprights was his father. "Jacob Eppright may have been the son of John Paul Eppright or John Eppright. He married Catherina Anamaria (Catherine) Wolf, who was born in 1786. They lived in Washington County, Maryland, and they later moved to Jefferson County, Tennessee. in 1840, they were in Johnson County, Missouri. Jacob Eppright was a farmer and miller, and he and his family were members of the Lutheran Church. Jacob Eppright died in 1852, and was buried in a grape arbor on the farm. Catherine died September 20, 1866 in Johnson County, Missouri. She is buried in Pisgah Cemetery in Chilhowee Township, Johnson County, Missouri. Many of the Epprights in Johnson County, Missouri are buried in Pisgah Cemetery ."

The Epprights had 13 children. Samuel, (born March, 1807, and Susanna, born January 11, 1808, were both baptized September 3, 1808 at Zion Luthern Church in Hagerstown, Maryland. Samuel apparently died when he was very young. Susanna went to Tennessee and Johnson County, Missouri with her family. She married Thomas Addison McSpadden in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1830. When Jacob died in 1852, His heirs were listed: "The heirs were his wife Catharine, and his children, George, Benjamin and Joseph Eppright of Johnson County, Missouri; Susan McSpadden and Anny (Sic) Combs of Johnson County, Missouri; Napoleon and Jonathan Eppright of Jasper County, Missouri; Isaac and David Eppright of Travis County, Texas; Jacob Eppright, Jr now in state of California, Polly Harris, now residing in Cass County, Missouri."

Mother's great grandfather, Jonathan , was the fourth child of Jacob and Catharine. He lived in Indiana in 1838, where he married Edy Meadows. They moved to Jasper County, Missouri, and their second son, George, was the first white child born in Duval Township, Jasper County, in 1842. His brother, Napoleon, the fifth child, joined Jonathan in Jasper County. We found Napoleon's house, part of which was from the original construction along the Spring River.

Jonathan and Edy Eppright had 7 children, and my great grandmother, Catharine Mary Eppright Welty, was their fourth child. My grandfather knew his mother's family, but he told Mother nothing about them. He probably would have answered her questions if she had known what to ask. She was able to trace the descendants of Marion, Martha, John, Clarinda Ellen, and Marinda, and she visited the cemeteries where they were buried, but she was not able to contact any of their descendants. Most of them continued to live in Jasper County, but those to whom she wrote did not respond.

Susanna Eppright McSpadden moved with her husband to Travis County, Texas after her father's death, and her younger brothers, David (Child 6) and Isaac (child 9) were already living in Travis County, Texas at that time. Patricia Scott Garman of Escondido, California, a descendant of Susanna Eppright McSpadden, and Mother both struggled to find information about the family.

George (Child 10, Benjamin (11), and Joseph 13) continued to live in Johnson County, Missouri. After writing many letters trying to trace the family,

Mother Met descendants of George in Warrensburg and attended several family gatherings with them in the 1990s.

WAYS WE SLEUTHED STORIES FROM A 1918 PHOTO ALBUM

Julia Morse

A family recently donated a 1918 photo album to the Windsor (Missouri) Historical Society. Its creator was A. Elwell Crissey, a 1918 graduate of Windsor High School, who had assembled the album from photographs he had taken during his senior year of high school and early college days.

Glynna Morse, a volunteer researcher and writer for the Windsor Historical Society, was excited to recognize photographs of many Windsor-area sites that were missing from the Historical Society's collection. In particular, she had been doing research on a picnic grounds that had been popular among Windsor-area residents in the latter 1800's and early 1900's and had been lamenting that they had no photographs of it—but they do now!

The album also presents scenes of various World War I fundraising events and military student exercises. Photos from his graduating class and teachers at the Windsor High School are also valuable to the Historical Society school-related collections, as this was the time before high school had year books.

This is the first lesson from the Elwell Crissey Photo Album: Local historical museums or libraries might be delighted with your family album or artifacts. Even if you do have a family curator and your family is not ready to part with the album, when you digitize that album, consider sharing it with museum or library of interest, or contributing it to a free digital library such as Internet Archive or Allen County Public Library.

The second lesson from the Elwell Crissey Photo Album was that it was easier than we had expected to sleuth out stories from the uncaptioned photos.

Have you ever found yourself leafing for the first time through an old family album which had no captions and no narrator left to tell the stories? It is an experience of mixed emotions. One is so excited to open this door to views previously unseen, thankful for this treasure, but also left a little heartsore realizing that it raises more questions than it answers. One of my grandmothers left an album filled with studio portraits from the latter 1800's, almost none of them captioned. We can recognize her among her sisters, but there are so many other people in the album who are yet unidentified to us.

However, we computer genealogists are not left without our tools for discovery! The Crissey album was filled with scenes that set the stage. Spurred by curiousity, we employed the following methods to sleuth out more of the stories beneath the photographs. Most of these tips are fairly obvious, but it was surprising the depth of information we were able to reveal:

Tip 1: Interview the source. Get as much information as you can from the source of the album. In this case, a descendant of the photographer donated the album and provided some information on Elwell Crissey, and we were able to do further research to fill in the gaps.

Tip 2: Interview others from the family or region who might recognize people or scenes. In this case, Glynna Elliott Morse, a lifelong resident of Windsor, as well as a local historian well-acquainted with other known historical photos of the area, was able to identify many of the locations in the background of the photos. She also knew other individuals who might remember and recognize details of local businesses, landmarks, or families.

In the case of an album in your family, sharing the album with other branches of the family may lead to new information. For example, there could be photos of visiting family in the album that were not often seen and known by your line. Or that branch of the family may have their own photos for comparison. One strong reason for sharing your family history photos online is that it allows others to find and connect. Some stories of "long lost relatives" (such as DNA matches or other suspected family branches) confirm their connection by finding that they each have a copy of the same old

photo. The capabilities of attaching photos to genealogy records in databases such as My Heritage or Ancestry is making it easier to share these photos and discover unknown photos from the collections of others.

Tip 3: Note the arrangement of the photos and other items in the album to gather information on chronology or event grouping. The arrangement is often chronological or grouped by themes. The context and story of one photo is often elucidated by a surrounding photo, or the time period in which the surrounding photos occurred. (This is a strong argument for retaining the album as much as possible in the state in which the original creator built it—not disassembling it.)

We were able to identify the general date and context of many photos in the Chrissey album due to the clear chronological arrangement. For example, all the State Fair photos were together. If they had not been in the album, some of those photos would have not been understood to belong to that group. The arrangement clearly distinguished high school gatherings from college photos.

Tip 4: Form hypotheses concerning occasions, locations, and relations, then research them for comparison.

Tip 5: Compare photos which involve recurring individuals and groups. This can assist in forming hypotheses. Photos in the countryside with repeated appearance of the same people suggest a group excursion and either friends or possibly visiting relatives. Multiple people wearing the same clothing suggests photos likely taken the same day and allows us to focus on possible locations from different photos that might have been taken in the same general area.

Tip 6: Unleash the power of high-resolution photo scanning. This is the ultimate power-tip. It is amazing how much detail a 600 dpi scan of a photo can provide when you zoom in. In this way we were able to zoom in on signs on buildings and details of distant buildings and objects which can help in identification of the location. We even zoomed in on tables set out in a college lawn event to see what people were doing or eating there.

We had hypothesized that a railroad tressle was part of the MKT railyard in Windsor, but after zooming in digitally, it was recognized instead to be a part of the Bowen Coal Mine. Cityscapes which we had supposed were probably in a visit to St. Louis turned out to be the Emery Bird Thayer Dry Goods store and the Westgate hotel, both in Kansas City.

A word of caution: Do your research before submitting an old photo album to the stresses of a flatbed scanner. Although flatbed scans are thought to typically yield the most consistent quality scans, the necessary handling of pages, bending and pressure at the spine, and the feat of turning and holding the album upside down all add up to wear and damage. Alternative options should be considered. There are multiple methods and aps for digitizing albums and scrapbooks with mobile devices or quality digital cameras, though these result in varying levels of quality. Some libraries provide document cameras which can yield good photo-captures of pages with less stress on the album. (This is also a good option for albums with oversized pages.) In many cases, a post-bound album can be carefully disassembled to scan single pages, then reassembled. (Be careful to keep pages in order!) This prevents the stress of bending pages at the spine.

Tip 7: Use digitized historic newspapers and other resources to check for more information on details and events at that time and place.

In the high resolution scan of a photo a WWI tank demonstration, we zoomed in to discern the names on the sign above a town store “Denny and Trau.” A newspaper search yielded a mention of “Denny and Trau” hardware store located in Fayette, Missouri, where Elwell Crissey attended college, thus confirming the location of the town scene.

A photo of a biplane in a field was among a series of summer photos in Windsor. Glynna knew that a member of the Bowen family was the first plane owners in Windsor, so we searched the Windsor paper for information that might confirm our hypothesis that this was the Bowen plane. One newspaper article indicated that the Bowen plane probably was not purchased until a few years after this photo. Instead, searching Windsor newspaper

items during that summer we found note of a military airplane exhibition as part of the Chatauqua events. Rechecking the order of the photographs confirmed that these photos were adjacent to the Chatauqua photos.

Remember those State Fair photos? The Windsor Review newspaper tells us that Crissey won first prize at the 1918 Missouri State Fair that year for amateur photography, best collection of state fair views.

Newspaper searches also yielded several articles that clarified events in Elwell Crissey's life as he was taking these photos. He had many photos of the Student Army Training Corps doing exercises at Central College in Fayette. We had assumed that he was part of the Corps (which provided young men's tuition and uniform, plus $30 per month). However, the Windsor paper clarified that he had not qualified for the Corps and had instead funded his education by working in a grocery store, as well as entering and winning multiple essay contests. This explains why he was able to photograph the WWI military training exercises. Another photo among the college scenes may be of people he worked with in the local grocery, although the store window signs do not quite confirm whether it is a grocery.

All these are small details, most of which seem unimportant in the grand scheme of things, but they add up to provide a richness of story and explanation behind the photographs.

I have used the Crissey Photo Album as an opportunity to research old photo album digitization and preservation. I am in the process of converting the page scans to digital format for Internet sharing. In a future article, I will share information and suggestions from that experience which we all can use in digitizing our own family albums. In the mean time, you might check out some resources on this topic from our MCG webpage, "Preserving Your History for Future Generations," https://mcgenealogists.org/2020/03/08/preserving-your-history/.

For a sampling of some of Elwell Crissey's 1918 photos, check out the MCG website.

NEW BOOK BY RAFINER

MCG President Al Morse recently received a note and copy of a new book by Tom A. Rafiner. Tom and Al have traveled together, and Al was able to show Tom some of the historical places in Bates County. Tom has been a frequent speaker at MCG meetings, and we wish we could schedule a meeting to hear from him about his new book, *R. L. Y. Peyton: An American Journey, 1824-1863.*

Tom is the author of *Caught Between Three Fires* and *Cinders and Silence.* "R. L. Y. Peyton's journey from obscurity to the national stage and then to oblivion, is as unlikely as it is incredible. Born into the cavalier Virginia gentry, Lud's family migrated to Oxford, Ohio. He attended Miami University before getting a law degree at the University of Virginia. For 10 years, he practiced frontier law in Harrisonville, Mo. Suddenly in 1854, inflamed by the Kansas - Nebraska Act Lud exploded onto the political stage. He represented western Missouri in the state senate, helped trigger secession and then served in the C.S.A. Senate. He died from malaria in Alabama in 1863. Peyton's journey is uniquely American, his life narrating Missouri's, and the country's, ante-bellum history."

"This hardback biography contains 419 narrative pages, 25 original maps, 85 photographs, twenty (20) newspaper clippings, and three original illustrations illuminate his life."

Learn more at https://www.tomrafiner.com/product-page/r-l-y-peyton-an-american-journey-1824-1863.

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